



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 30, 2023

The Honorable President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

As you know, U.S. Southern border crossings recently reached a historic high. Because of our long-broken immigration system, this crisis is not contained at the border, but is now seeping into internal states like Colorado. I am encouraged to see your Administration's recent request for supplemental funding to address this border crisis. However, I am concerned this funding may not make its way to non-border states like Colorado, where our state and local services are being strained. That is why I am requesting that subsequent Shelter and Services Program (SSP) funding is prioritized for interior cities, specifically Denver and its surrounding localities, to humanely address the diverse needs of migrants, and to alleviate the stress on our systems being caused by a continuing influx of arrivals.

Beginning last December, Colorado started experiencing an influx of migrants and asylum seekers. Since then, we have seen times where the number of migrants in local shelters in the Denver Metropolitan Area peaked at over 3,000 migrants, with approximately 400-500 individuals arriving daily. These high numbers are the result of a steady stream of buses that are arriving from the Southern border, oftentimes without advance notice. At one point, the city received 37 buses of migrants in a single week. To date, the City of Denver has provided assistance to over 25,000 migrants since December of last year.

While state and local officials have given tremendous support to these individuals through providing temporary food, shelter, health services, transportation, and other services, their arrival has depleted the already scarce funding and resources of the state and its localities to address this crisis. While Denver originally allocated \$20 million for migrant support efforts, they have spent over \$26 million to date, or about \$1.5 million per week. If the crisis continues at this rate, the \$20 million in funding that Denver has allocated toward the migrant response in 2024 will run dry within the first four months and millions more would need to be allocated.<sup>1</sup> While Denver received funding earlier this year through the SSP, it was just under \$10 million, well shy of making Denver whole.

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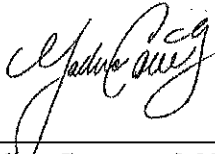
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.axios.com/local/denver/2023/09/26/migrants-housing-crisis-homelessness>

The City of Denver and surrounding localities continue to be inundated by challenges created by the high number of arrivals, and it is not possible for these localities to adequately meet the needs of both their citizens and arriving migrants if this were to continue. While local funding is crucial to addressing this issue, providing funding support for migrants should not fall primarily on the shoulders of local taxpayers. The federal government needs to step in to take responsibility.

Once again, I urge you to prioritize Denver and its surrounding localities for increased SSP funding once Congress addresses your supplemental funding request. This boost in federal funding will play a crucial role in ensuring that our cities can continue to provide humane conditions and essential services for arriving migrants. It will also ease the financial strain Denver and neighboring cities have been enduring for almost a year at a time when we are seeing the highest number of border crossings ever<sup>2</sup>. Simply put, addressing the crisis at our Southern border means acknowledging the impacts it is having on the rest of the country.

Thank you for your Administration's attention to this matter and for consideration of this request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



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Yadira Caraveo, M.D.  
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/21/us/politics/cbp-record-border-crossings.html>